C I T Y M A N A G E R S B U L L E T I N

CITY MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION
H. G. OTIS, SECRETARY

CITY BUILDING, CLARKSBURG, W. VA.

Volume III, Number 10. October, 1921.

KALAMAZOO RETAINS MANAGER PLAN

Kalamazoo, Michigan by vote of 2952 to 2328, turned down the proposed charter amendments which would have discontinued the city-manager plan and substituted the aldermanic form at the special election held October 4th. A comparatively small vote was polled as only 5280 ballots were cast out of a registration of over 20,000. This election has been watched with a great deal of interest at it was a followup to the election held last spring. At that time the opponents to the manager plan polled sufficient votes to elect a charter revision commission pledged to submit amendments designed to abolish the office of manager. The "veto" of October 4th, may be regarded as the "sober second thought".

DAYTON CHARTER FIGHT CALLED OFF

The Ohio supreme court has ruled that the petition asking for an election this fall to determine whether Dayton should continue under the manager plan or revert to the mayor-alderman plan, was not properly filed and is void. This means that there will be no charter fight in Dayton this year. The opponents to the city-manager form have never ceased their antagonism and while Dayton has become known the world over for the success of her new style government, the past eight years seem only to have sharpened the appetite of those who once fed at the public trough and have gone hungry since v-o-t-e-s failed to spell "jobs".

MANAGER PLAN AT ALTOONA UNDER FIRE

Altoona, Pa., has been operating under the manager plan by ordinance since January, 1918. The plan proved so successful that at the last election, in the fall of 1919, all members of the commission were reelected. At the primaries just held, the two candidates for council pledged to the continuance of the manager plan were nominated were against a field of 10 candidates who were opposed to the plan. So far, so good; but these two candidates received only 10,450 votes out of a total of 25,850 cast. Hence, if the followers of the other candidates unite in supporting the opposition ticket, it may go hard with the friends of the city-manager idea.

CITY MANAGERS IN NEW ZEALAND

Bland T. W. Owen, town engineer of Hastings, New Zealand, in applying for subscribing membership in the C.M.A. advises that the city manager profession is being inaugurated in New Zealand. V. J. Bhole, local board engineer in H.E.H., the Wizanis State, India, has held a position for the past six years in Aurangabad, an Indian city of 40,000, quite similar to that of city

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manager. He is now in America, studying municipal government and has applied for membership in the C.M.A. We already have on our roll, S. R. Bhagwat, chief municipal officer of Poona City, India, and H. C. Tung of China.

THE CONVENTION

Great Northern Hotel, Chicago, Fifth Floor.

The Great Northern Hotel has been chosen as convention headquarters. It is one of Chicago's old standbys and is just across the street from the Chicago City Club, where our meetings are to be held. In writing for reservations, ask for rooms on the Fifth Floor, as this is being reserved for us so that we may have more of the little sociable tete-a-tetes that go to make a meeting of this sort a success. The room rates are as follows:

Single rooms without bath, $2.50 & $3.00; Single rooms with bath, $4.50 up
Double " " " $5.00 Double " " " $5.00 '

One and One-Half Fare Rates

On account of the American Public Ownership League having its meeting in Chicago at the same time as the C.M.A. meeting, fare and half round trip tickets are available on all railroads. Moreover, by filing a certificate with the railroad, you are relieved of war tax on transportation and pullman charges as you are on official city business, or should be.

Bring your Mayors and Councilmen with You

Guests are always welcome at the meetings of the C.M.A. and the mayors and councilmen of city-manager cities are attending each year in larger numbers. The only sessions limited to city managers are the executive session for election of officers and the SMOKER Tuesday evening, - but that's a secret.

The Program

Advice comes from C. A. Bingham that the program has been completed. If it is as good as the tentative draft it will be worth going a long way to hear. Prospects for the biggest meeting yet are very bright.

November 14-16

Don't forget the dates: Monday, November 14 to Wednesday, November 16; three days. The Chicago City Club is located at 315 Plymouth Court.

WHEELING'S CITY MANAGER INDICTED

Homer C. Orago, city manager of Wheeling, together with several members of his administrative staff, is under indictment of the grand jury for fraud in connection with the recent city election. The story goes that Mr. Orago, who was city clerk at the time, was instrumental in supplying extra ballots to some of his friends, which, it is alleged, found their way into

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the ballot boxes. Friends of Mr. Crago's were elected and proceeded to appoint Mr. Crago to the position of city manager in the place of his former superior Chas. O. Ephlin. Mr. Crago denies the charges and has not yet been brought to trial. In the meantime, the ministerial association has passed unanimous resolutions requesting the resignation of the manager and those indicted with him. This is the first time the finger of suspicion has been pointed at a city manager. When it is considered that over 480 men have been appointed city managers, the record is one of which the new profession may well be proud. It is hoped that Mr. Crago may establish his innocence beyond all question of doubt.

SEVENTH YEARBOOK OUT

The seventh yearbook of the C.M.A. has finally made its appearance. It is notable for a number of things besides delay in bublication, It has 250 pages of reading matter, - 40% more than last year's issue, - more than 5 times as large as the first issue. It containes reports from 245 cities under the manager plan. If the report from your city is not all that it should be please believe that it is some task to prepare a symposium of this sort. A few of the reports were culled from volumes an inch thick; many were compiled from material of no thickness at all. Wilbur M. Cotton of Dayton, former manager of Ambridge, Pa., colabored with the secretary in the preparation of these progress reports and the thanks of the Association are due to him, as well as to C. B. Greene of Dayton and to the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce for some of the material.

The enclosed announcement cards are to be <u>used</u>. You will find them convenient to send to those enquiring concerning the manager plan. Kindly mail them out as occasion permits.

You will note that the price of the yearbook has been reduced to 25¢ a copy for members and subscribers,- the twenty percent discount for lots of ten, does not apply to this low price. The reason for this reduction is two fold; Every member of your city council and many of your department heads should have a copy of the book. Again, the members cooperated so successfully in securing advertisements that the reduction in price is made possible.

AT TO MEMBERSHIP DUES

There is more than $1200 outstanding in unpaid membership dues on the books of the secretary. The bulletin is seldom used as a means to aid in collection but inasmuch as the secretary is turning these books over to his successor in November, this special appeal is made in order that all accounts may be settled. Thank you. Then here is another matter; Should the dues remain at the present rate? Shall we continue to furnish the National Municipal Review to all members and subscribers,- this costs the C.M.A. $4.00 for each subscription? Shall all dues be made uniform instead of on the present sliding scale? Let's talk it over at the convention.

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LOUIS BROWNLOW HEADS VIRGINIA LEAGUE

Since publication of the last Bulletin announcing the election of H.J.Graeser as president of the Texas League of Municipalities, Louis Brownlow, city manager of Petersburg, Va., has been chosen president of the Virginia League of Municipalities. Hewes, Graeser and Brownlow, who's next? Michigan managers are finally waking up and taking active parts in the League of Michigan Municipalities which has enjoyed a long and uneventful life. Ralph D. Ballew, city manager of Sturgis and Clarence L. Miller, city manager of Kalamazoo, are both on the recently elected board of directors, though of the 31 city manager cities in Michigan, none has yet furnished a president for the Michigan League.

NEW MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS

Members:

J. Gardner Bennet, city manager, Ft. Myers, Fla.
J. E. Caton, city manager, El Dorado, Kansas.
Clyde Hum, village manager, Grosse Pte. Shores, Mich.
Max Chas. Price, city manager, Punta Gorda, Fla.
Clarence E. Ridley, city manager, Bluefield, W. Va.
A. W. Vincent, city manager, Rapid City, So. Dak.
E. H. Wrenn, city manager, Reidsville, N. C.

Subscribers:

American Asphalt Paint Co., Chicago, Ill.
Barber Asphalt Paving Co., Philadelphia, Pa.
Bilateral Fire Hose Co., Chicago, Ill.
Frank P. Cartwright, Dept. of Commerce, Washington, D.C.
Morris Knowles, Inc., engineers, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Stephen D. Mandell, engineer, Cumberland, Md.
Morse R. Pringle, engineer, Kingsport, Tenn.
Jas. W. Routh, engineer, St. Paul, Minn.
R. A. Small, engineer, Massena, N. Y.
George Stern, manufacturer, Frostborg, Md.
D. R. Swing, engineer, Marshfield, Mo.
Troy Wagon Works Co., Troy, Ohio
Walter Walker, editor, Grand Junction, Colo.
H. A. Warner, engineer, Union City, Okla.

ADDITIONS AND LITERATIONS
253 Manager Cities Now.

By October 1, 1921 the record of towns and cities on the city manager list is as follows:

United States	By charter,	179,	by ordinance,	68,	total,	247
Canada	" "	5,	" "	1,	"	6
Totals	" "	184	" "	69	"	253

New London, Conn. Population 25,638, Waldo E. Clarke is chairman of the committee on applications for city manager. The appointment has not yet been made but it is understood that there are several candidates.

Stratford, Conn. Population 12,347. The newly elected commission has not yet named a city manager.

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New Smyrna, Fla. Population 2,007. W. R. Patton has resigned as city manager and returned to Morganton, North Carolina, where he is engaged in highway engineering. He is succeeded by Oscar Dobbs, former manager at Clovis N. M. Mr. Dobb's transfer is the 48th case of a city manager being called from one city to another.

Columbus, Ga., Population 31,125. On September 27, a commission-manager charter was adopted by a majority of 567 votes. The commission of five members is to be elected Dec. 10, and they will proceed to appoint a city manager. The votes of the women were largely responsible for the adoption of the new plan; 586 of them being in favor of the city manager charter, and only 74 opposing.

Michigan City, Ind., Population 10,457. Applications for the position of manager which will be filled in December, indicate that there is considerable competition for the honor of being the first Indiana city manager.

Medicine Lodge, Kans., Population 1,370. G. E. Alexander has been employed as general manager. He will look after the business affairs of the city, including supervision of the electric power and water plants. The manager plan has apparantly been created by local ordinance.

St. Marys, Kans., Population 1,321. Carl P. Weisbender who has served for some time as superintendent of the water and light department, has been appointed city manager to fill the vacancy created by the death of W. E. Miller.

Benton Harbor, Mich., Population 12,227. The city commission which took office last July, announced that it would postpone appointment of city manager until a new tax budget was made out this fall. It is anticipated that a manager will be chosen in the near future.

Escanaba, Mich., Population 13,103. By vote of 1840 to 341, a commission-manager charter was adopted August 29, and becomes effective in April 1922.

Columbus Heights, Minn., Population 4000. Appointment of city manager under the charter adopted during the summer, has not yet been announced. Applications may be filed with E. A. Carlson 3724 Van Buren St. N. E. Minneapolis Minn.

Bozeman, Mont. Population 6,183. The first commission under the new charter was elected October 4, and is now looking for a city manager, applications may be filed with the City Clerk.

Clovis, N.M. Population 9,404. The resignation of Oscar Dobbs to accept the managership at New Smyrna, Fla., creates a vacancy which has not yet been reported as filled. Mr. Dobbs' salary was $3,600. He has served since June, 1919.

Ashtubula, Ohio. Population 32,082. The resignation of M. H. Turner as city manager, has been withdrawn at the request of the city commission and no change is anticipated in the near future.

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Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Population 15,236. Applications for the position of city manager are now being received and it is anticipated that the appointment will be made in the near future, the new manager to take office Jan. 1, 1922.

Lima, Ohio. Population 41,306. Mayor F. A. Burkhardt is receiving a great many applications for the position of city manager. The new commission will make a selection between now and January 1st.

Woodward, Okla. Population 3,895. Definite word has not yet been received as to when the new commission-manager charter becomes effective, but newspaper clippings indicate that the commission will be elected soon and that they will proceed at once to appoint a manager.

St. Albans, Vt., Population 7,562. James E. O'Donnell, assistant manager of the Central Vermont Railroad and a resident of St. Albans, has accepted temporarily the appointment for city manager to fill the vacancy made by the recent resignation of A. B. Edwards. Mr. O'Donnell's salary is $4,200 per year.

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Barnesboro, Pa. Population 5,000. L. A. Bosserman advises that Barnesboro is considering the appointment of a borough manager who will also serve as secretary of the newly organized chamber of commerce. He has requested that he be put in touch with possible candidates for the dual position.

Prince Rupert, B.C. Can., John Dybhavn, alderman, advises that his city contemplates the appointment of a city manager in the near future and asks for for the names of men who might be interested.

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Fort Pierce, Fla., A commission-manager charter was voted down on August 10 as word was passed around by its friends that a bond issue of $80,000 would be invalidated should the charter be adopted at this time.

Norwalk, Ohio. On August 9th a proposal to adopt the city manager plan was defeated by a vote of 10 to 1.